

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 /032 W

----- 003858

R 041737Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0919

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS BONN 13091

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: FRG UNEMPLOYMENT UP SLIGHTLY IN JULY

BEGIN SUMMARY: LABOR MARKET STATISTICS FOR JULY INDICATE THAT UNEMPLOYMENT HAS INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES FROM THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT OFFICE (BAA) SHOW A SLIGHT INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT IN JULY AS COMPARED TO JUNE.

THERE WERE 23,600 ADDITIONAL UNEMPLOYED WHICH BROUGHT THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC UP TO 4.1 PERCENT AS COMPARED TO 4.0 PERCENT IN JUNE. THE NUMBER OF WORKERS ON SHORT TIME, HOWEVER, DECREASED BY 62 PERCENT FROM 135,000 TO 82,800. COMPARED TO 1975, UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE FRG FOR JULY WAS 4.1 PERCENT

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COMPARED TO 4.5 PERCENT IN JULY OF LAST YEAR. BAA

DIRECTOR STINGL ADMITTED THAT THE INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT CAME AS A SURPRISE. THE OPPOSITION IS CITING THE INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT AS AN INDICATION THAT THE ECONOMY IS NOT IMPROVING AS MUCH AS THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS, BUT THE JULY UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES ARE MIXED AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT OFFICE ANNOUNCED AUGUST 3 THAT UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC HAD RISEN SLIGHTLY IN THE MONTH OF JULY. ACCORDING TO THE NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURES, UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASED 23,600 TO 4.1 PERCENT. THIS WAS ONE-TENTH OF ONE PERCENT GAIN OVER JUNE. THE NUMBER OF WORKERS ON SHORT TIME, HOWEVER, DECLINED SIGNIFICANTLY BY 62 PERCENT. A TOTAL OF 82,800 WORKERS WERE WORKING SHORT TIME HOURS COMPARED TO 649,300 IN JULY 1975.

2. FROM THE 944,600 UNEMPLOYED IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, 865,400 WERE GERMANS AND 79,200 WERE FOREIGN WORKERS. UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG FOREIGN WORKERS RECEDED SOMEWHAT BECAUSE MANY OF THEM RETURN TO THEIR NATIVE COUNTRIES ON VACATION DURING THE SUMMER. UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNGER WORKERS (UNDER 20 YEARS OLD), HOWEVER, INCREASED BY 12.6 PERCENT OVER LAST MONTH TO A TOTAL OF 86,800. WHITE COLLAR WORKERS WERE ALSO MORE HEAVILY HIT BY UNEMPLOYMENT.

3. REGISTERED JOB OPENINGS ALSO DECLINED IN JULY COMPARED TO JUNE, BUT THE NUMBER OF OPENINGS WERE GREATER IN 1976 THAN 1975 (I.E., 276,200 - 255,443).

4. AMONG THE FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE INCREASED UNEMPLOYMENT, ACCORDING TO BAA PRESIDENT STINGL, WERE: FACTORIES CLOSING DOWN IN JULY FOR VACATION, SCHOOL VACATIONS, PARTICULARLY VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, AND REGULATIONS AFFECTING WHITE COLLAR EMPLOYMENT WHICH CAN MAKE UNEMPLOYMENT GREATER AT THE END OF THE QUARTER THAN DURING THE QUARTER.

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5. ALTHOUGH THE OPPOSITION HAS BEEN QUICK TO SEIZE UPON THE FIGURES AS AN INDICATION THAT THE ECONOMY IS NOT AS ROSY AS THE GOVERNMENT CLAIMS, THE EMPLOYMENT PICTURE IS MIXED. THE SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN WORKERS ON SHORT TIME, FOR EXAMPLE, IS CITED BY THE GOVERNMENT AS PROOF THAT THE ECONOMY IS IMPROVING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMPLOYMENT, REPORTS, LABOR FORCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN13091
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760301-0225
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760885/aaaacxbw.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2005 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG UNEMPLOYMENT UP SLIGHTLY IN JULY BEGIN SUMMARY: LABOR MARKET STATISTICS FOR JULY INDI- CATE THAT UNEMPLOYMENT HAS INCREASED SLIGHTLY IN T
TAGS: ELAB, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006